THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) Central Government/ *VGC* have not issued any instructions in this regard. Further, there is no proposal, to make prayers in colleges compulsory.

Compulsory military training to graduates

3102. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce compulsory military training, for at least two years, to all the graduates, with modest stipends, before allowing them to apply for Government jobs, in order to inculcate better discipline in all Government servants;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No such proposal has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

AICTE permission for IT courses

3103. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Information Technology has become very important now-a-days; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider and give directions to All India Council for Technical Education to grant permission to all secondary and higher secondary schools. Government colleges to start computer courses and permit them to issue certificates to students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Government of

India is aware of the growing demand of Information Technology (IT) professionals in the country. In view of this, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Statutory Body responsible for coordinated development of technical education in the country, through a special drive using an accelerated process for approval, increased around 46000 seats during the year 2000-2001 for IT related subjects in approved technical institutes. The Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools do not come under the purview of AICTE.

Problem of Gujarat students regarding examinations

† 3104. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students in Gujarat are running from pillar to post to take examination due to Government's carelessness and red-tapism, while the whole world the domestic and foreign voluntary organisations had extended their help for the earthquake victims; and

(b) if not, what arrangements have been made by Government and the CBSE to conduct written and practical examinations for students in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Board has made following special arrangements for the conduct of Secondary and Senior Secondary Examination 2001 for the students of CBSE affiliated schools located in the worst earthquake affected districts of Gujarat:—

1. The students have been permitted to take up practical exminations after the theory examinations.

2. They can appear for theory and practical examinations from

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.